

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4 and 6-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 13-19 are amended and new claim 20 is added by the present amendment.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 14-18 were objected to for informalities. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 14-18 are amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 4 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in accordance with the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 4 and 14-18 are amended in light of this indication. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over *Subroutine Return Address Stack* to Losq (herein "Losq"). It is assumed this rejection was intended for pending claims 2, 4 and 6-19. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 2 is directed to a branch predicting device, in which "only a taken branch instruction is registered." Independent claims 6, 7, 10, 13 and 19 are amended to recite similar features, which are similar to features recited in indicated allowable claim 4.

As acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action at page 2, item 4, "The Office believes that the claim language was supposed to read 'and wherein on a taken branch instruction is thus registered.' If so, it would put claims 4 and 14-18 in condition for allowance." Independent claims 4 and 14-18 are amended in light of these comments, and it is respectfully submitted amended independent claims 4 and 14-18 therefore patentably distinguish over Losq.

Further, it is submitted Losq does not discuss or suggest such features.

Accordingly, as independent claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 13 and 19 are also amended to recite similar such features, it is respectfully submitted amended independent claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 13 and 19 and each of the claims depending therefrom also patentably distinguish over Losq.

NEW CLAIMS

In addition, new claim 20 is added to set forth the invention in a varying scope. New claim 20 includes similar features to independent claim 2, but does not recite "wherein said storing circuits stores a register number of a link register, which is specified by the instruction equivalent to the subroutine call, as the information specifying the return address and wherein said storing circuit stores the return address of the subroutine as the information specifying the return address." Rather, new claim 20 recites "wherein only a taken branch instruction is registered," similarly to indicated allowable claim 4.

New claim 20 is believed to be allowable at least for similar reasons as discussed regarding claim 4, and it is believed no new matter is added.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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